CLAIMS:

1. An optical disc drive apparatus having a turntable body (5) for rotating a data disc, an optical pickup unit (1), means (2) for moving the optical pickup unit for reading a data disc while the disc is being rotated, and means for determining an innermost position of the optical pickup unit, characterized in that the device comprises a means (5, 7) for rotating the turntable body at a speed lower than the operating speed, means (2) for moving the optical pickup unit towards an innermost position, means for sensing a change in speed as the optical pickup unit (1) contacts the turntable body (5), and means for producing an indication signal (I_{indic}) in response to said sensing of said change.

2. An optical disc drive apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the optical pickup unit (1) comprises a friction pad (8).

3. A method of controlling the position of an optical pickup unit (1) in an optical disc drive apparatus having a turntable body (5), characterized in that the turntable body (5) is rotated at a speed lower than the operating speed, the optical pickup unit (1) is moved towards an innermost position, a change in speed is sensed as the optical pickup unit (1) contacts the turntable body (5), and an indication signal (I_{indic}) is produced in response to said sensing of said change.

4. A method of detecting an innermost position of an optical pickup head (1) in an optical disc drive apparatus (5) having a turntable body, characterized in that the turntable body (5) is rotated at a speed lower than the operating speed, the optical pickup unit (1) is moved towards an innermost position, a change in speed is senssed as the optical pickup unit (1) contacts the turntable body (5), and an indication signal (I_{indic}) is produced in response to said sensing of said change.

5. A method as claimed in claim 3 or 4, characterized in that contact between the optical pickup unit (1) and the turntable body (5) is made via a friction pad (8).